

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A spa cover lifter for assisting in the repositioning and removal of a spa cover having opposing left and right cover side surfaces, from a spa of the type supported from a substantially flat supporting surface, and having a back spa side disposed between opposing left and right spa sides, the spa cover lifter comprising:

opposing left and right side arm supports spaced apart to receive opposing cover side surfaces between the same, each side arm support having an upper end adapted to rotatably support a portion of the spa cover, and an opposing lower end, wherein the left side arm support is rotatably mounted to the left spa side and the right side arm support is rotatably mounted to the right spa side;

a lower linking member having spaced apart opposing ends, the lower linking member being shaped to extend from one side arm support, around the back spa side, to the opposing side arm support with each end of the linking member being pivotally attached to a respective side arm support to enable the linking member to pivot about a substantially horizontal axis, relative to the side arms, to define a linking member pivot angle between each side arm support and the linking member;

1 means for adjustably bracing each side arm support from
2 the linking member to fix the linking member pivot angle;
3 and

4 wherein the spa cover lifter is shiftable from a first
5 position where the spa cover is in a horizontal covering
6 position over the spa, to a second position where the spa
7 cover is in a stowed position adjacent the back spa side of
8 the spa as each side arm support rotates relative to the
9 spa.

10
11 2. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 1
12 wherein the linking member pivot angle is selectable to a
13 plurality of predetermined angles.

14
15 3. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 2
16 wherein the degree of rotation of each side arm support is
17 restricted by the linking member engaging the substantially
18 flat supporting surface as the spa cover lifter is shifted
19 from the first position to the second position.

20
21 4. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 1
22 wherein the degree of rotation of each side arm support is
23 restricted by the linking member engaging the substantially
24 flat supporting surface as the spa cover lifter is shifted
25 from the first position to the second position.

1 5. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 1
2 wherein the degree of rotation of each side arm support is
3 restricted by the linking member engaging the back spa side
4 as the spa cover lifter is shifted from the first position
5 to the second position.

6
7 6. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 1
8 wherein the lower linking member comprises opposing side
9 portions, disposed adjacent the ends of the lower linking
10 member, that are substantially parallel to the respective
11 spa side, wherein each bracing means extends from the
12 respective side portion, to the respective side arm support.

13
14 7. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 1
15 wherein each pivotal connection between the opposing ends of
16 the linking member and the respective side arm support
17 occurs at a point between the upper end and the lower end of
18 the respective side arm.

19
20 8. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 1
21 wherein each pivot connection between the opposing ends
22 of the linking member and the respective side arm support
23 occurs at the lower end of the respective side arm support.

1 9. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 1
2 wherein the bracing means comprises a pair of structural
3 members, wherein one structural member is fixed to each side
4 arm support at a point between the upper and lower end
5 thereof, with each respective structural member extending to
6 and being fixed to the lower linking member.

7
8 10. A method of making a spa cover lifter for
9 assisting in the repositioning and removal of a spa cover
10 having opposing left and right cover side surfaces, from a
11 spa of the type supported from a substantially flat
12 supporting surface, and having a back spa side disposed
13 between opposing left and right spa sides, the method
14 comprising the steps:

15 providing opposing left and right side arm supports and
16 spacing them apart to receive opposing cover side surfaces
17 between the same, each side arm support having an upper end
18 adapted to rotatably support a portion of the spa cover, and
19 an opposing lower end, wherein the left side arm support is
20 rotatably mounted to the left spa side and the right side
21 arm support is rotatably mounted to the right spa side;

22 connecting a lower linking member to opposing left and
23 right side arm supports, the a lower linking member having
24 spaced apart opposing ends, the lower linking member being
25 shaped to extend from one side arm support, around the back
26 spa side, to the opposing side arm support with each end of

1 the linking member being pivotally attached to a respective
2 side arm support to enable the linking member to pivot about
3 a substantially horizontal axis, relative to the side arms,
4 to define a linking member pivot angle between each side arm
5 support and the linking member;

6 adjustably bracing each side arm support from the
7 linking member to fix the linking member pivot angle; and

8 wherein the spa cover lifter is shiftable from a first
9 position where the spa cover is in a horizontal covering
10 position over the spa, to a second position where the spa
11 cover is in a stowed position adjacent the back spa side of
12 the spa as each side arm support rotates relative to the
13 spa.

14

15 11. A method for making a spa cover lifter as recited
16 in claim 10 wherein the linking member pivot angle is
17 selectable to a plurality of predetermined angles.

18

19 12. A method for making a spa cover lifter as recited
20 in claim 11 wherein the degree of rotation of each side arm
21 support is restricted by the linking member engaging the
22 substantially flat supporting surface as the spa cover
23 lifter is shifted from the first position to the second
24 position.

1 13. A method for making a spa cover lifter as recited
2 in claim 10 wherein the degree of rotation of each side arm
3 support is restricted by the linking member engaging the
4 substantially flat supporting surface as the spa cover
5 lifter is shifted from the first position to the second
6 position.

7
8 14. A method for making a spa cover lifter as recited
9 in claim 10 wherein the degree of rotation of each side arm
10 support is restricted by the linking member engaging the
11 back spa side as the spa cover lifter is shifted from the
12 first position to the second position.

13
14 15. A method for making a spa cover lifter as recited
15 in claim 10 wherein the length of each side arm is
16 predetermined and fixed.

17
18 16. A method for making a spa cover lifter as recited
19 in claim 10 wherein each pivotal connection between the
20 opposing ends of the linking member and the respective side
21 arm support occurs at a point between the upper end and the
22 lower end of the respective side arm.

23
24 17. A method for making a spa cover lifter as recited
25 in claim 10 wherein the each pivot connection between the
26 opposing ends of the linking member and the respective side

1 arm support occurs at the lower end of the respective side
2 arm support.

3 18. A spa cover lifter for assisting in the
4 repositioning and removal of a spa cover having opposing
5 left and right cover side surfaces, from a spa of the type
6 supported from a substantially flat supporting surface, and
7 having a back spa side disposed between opposing left and
8 right spa sides, the spa cover lifter comprising:

9 opposing left and right side arm supports spaced apart
10 to receive opposing cover side surfaces between the same,
11 each side arm support having an upper end adapted to
12 rotatably support a cover side surface, and an opposing
13 lower end, wherein the left side arm support is rotatably
14 mounted to the left spa side and the right side arm support
15 is rotatably mounted to the right spa side;

16 a lower linking member having spaced apart opposing
17 ends, the lower linking member being shaped to extend from
18 one side arm support, around the back spa side, to the
19 opposing side arm support with each end of the linking
20 member being pivotally attached to a respective side arm
21 support to enable the linking member to pivot about a
22 substantially horizontal axis, relative to the side arms, to
23 define a linking member pivot angle between each side arm
24 support and the linking member;

25 a pair of brace members for adjustably bracing each
26 side arm support from the linking member to fix the linking

1 member pivot angle, wherein one brace member is adjustably
2 fixed to each side arm support at a point between the upper
3 and lower end thereof, with each respective brace member
4 extending to and being fixed to the lower linking member,
5 wherein the point of connection between each brace member to
6 the respective side arm support is adjustable along the side
7 arm support so that the linking member pivot angle is
8 selectable between a plurality of angles; and

9 wherein the spa cover lifter is shiftable from a first
10 position where the spa cover is in a horizontal covering
11 position over the spa, to a second position where the spa
12 cover is in a stowed position adjacent the back spa side of
13 the spa as each side arm support rotates relative to the
14 spa.

15

16 19. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 18 wherein
17 each side arm support comprises side arm member and a
18 movable jaw slide that is movable along the side arm member,
19 wherein the jaw slide provides the a pivotal point of
20 attachment between the brace member and the respective side
21 arm support.

22

23 20. A spa cover lifter as recited in claim 19 wherein
24 the side arm member defines a plurality of bores for
25 engagement with a fastener disposed through the movable jaw
26 slide, wherein the jaw slide can be fixed along the side arm

1 at predetermined points determined by the position of the
2 bores.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26